☆ The climax's quarterfinals "Ippo VS Mizuki"!!
Celebrating the additional printing of volume one, this chapter's been increased to 23 pages!!

NOW THAT SHINOBU HAS WON AND ADVANCED, NEXT UP IS.....!?

Game 18 The Lead

Ikezawa Haruto

Editor: Hashimoto Takanori

KAMAYA BUSINESS SCHOOL
AND KOMAE DAIICHI .....
美

LET'S FOCUS ON THE THIRD ROUND
YES!
THAT'S RIGHT .....

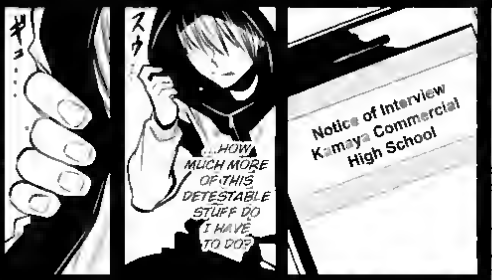
JIPPO-KUN...

.....

I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU SUDDENLY TRANSFERRED IN, BUT...
THIS IS ALSO... THANKS TO YOU, SAGIRA-KUN

ざわ
ざわ
WE REALLY MADE IT TO THE BEST 8
MAN, I'M NERVOUS

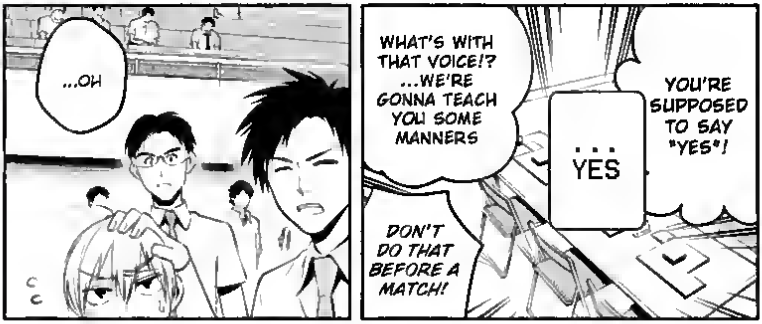
I'M GOING TO ENTER HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS TOO
I ENTERED ONE SINCE MY PARENTS WERE MAKING A FUSS, BUT I NEVER GO... THEY DON'T HAVE A SHOGI CLUB THERE, EITHER
HIGH SCHOOL, HUH...
カチ
WELL.....
I NEED A PRIVATE SCHOOL THAT'S ACCEPTING TRANSFER STUDENTS UNTIL SUMMER AND HAS A SHOGI CLUB... THIS IS SO MUCH WORK...
カチ
...IF THEY HAVE ONLINE CLASSES, I CAN TRANSFER AT ANY TIME... AH, I CAN'T ENTER THE SAME TOURNAMENT HERE...
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, I CAN TRANSFER SCHOOLS OR WHATEVER...
カチ!!
I DON'T WANNA MIX IN WITH THOSE EXTRAS
SENGA HIG
SCHOOL INTRODUCTION
COURSE INFORMATION
SCHOOL LIFE
THIS SCHOOL EMBLEM... THIS IS WHERE SHINOBU WENT...
IT MEETS MY REQUIRE-MENTS, BUT...



*T/N A commercial high school in Japan is one where students learn business and commercial knowledge and skills, and tend to go straight into the workforce after high school instead of going to college.

EVERYTHING
IS FOR THE SAKE
OF FIGHTING SHINOBU
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY BEEN 2 MONTHS
I THOUGHT FIRST YEARS ONLY TRANSFERRED FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES IF IT WAS FOR STUFF LIKE KOSHIEN*
*T/N: Koshien (stadium) is where the Japanese national high school baseball tournament takes place. The name is commonly used to refer to the tournament itself. It's a really big deal.

LET'S MAKE IT TO THE SEMIFINALS WITHOUT FAIL!!!
THIS IS OUR LAST TOUR-NAMENT
WE'VE ALWAYS SAID WE COULD GO TO TOURNAMENTS IF WE HAD ONE MORE PERSON
... YEAH

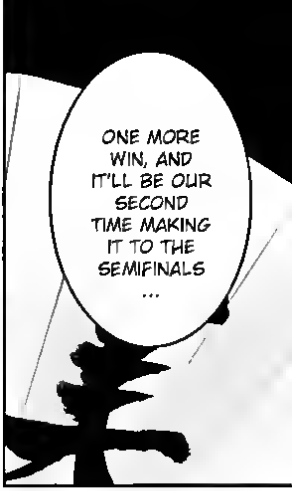

...OH
WHAT'S WITH THAT VOICE!? ...WE'RE GONNA TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY "YES"!
... YES
DON'T DO THAT BEFORE A MATCH!

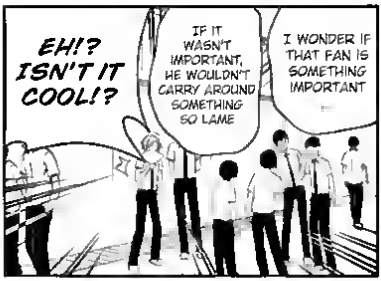
KOMAE DAIICHI ...!!!
THEY CAME

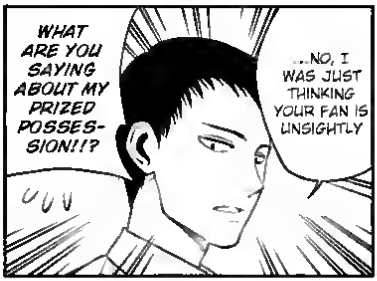
THE TAISHOU IS MISAKI SHINGO
HE'S A PACE-SETTER TYPE WHO WINS BY MAINTAINING DOMINANCE FROM THE START OF THE GAME...
ニコ…
THANKS TO ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN POWER DUOS IN TOKYO, THEY'VE MADE RAPID PROGRESS THIS PAST YEAR
AND SHOT UP THE RANKS TO BECOME THIS YEAR'S TOP CHAMPIONSHIP FAVORITE

AT LAST YEAR'S TOURNAMENT TOO, HE RESIGNED EARLY AND LOST
YOU CAN BEAT HIM, SAGARA-KUN!!
HE'S FAMOUS FOR QUICKLY FINDING REASONS TO RESIGN
HE HAS A TENDENCY TO GIVE UP AS SOON AS HE SEES ONE DISADVANTAGE... HUH
...HOWEVER

ARE YOU LISTENING!? TSUKASA-KUN!
IF YOU REALIZE YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE, YOU SHOULD HONESTLY RESIGN WITHOUT STRUGGLING USELESSLY... OKAY?
EVEN SO, UNSIGHTLY GAMES ARE FORBIDDEN
.....
Yes!
Yes!


ONE MORE WIN, AND IT'LL BE OUR SECOND TIME MAKING IT TO THE SEMIFINALS ...

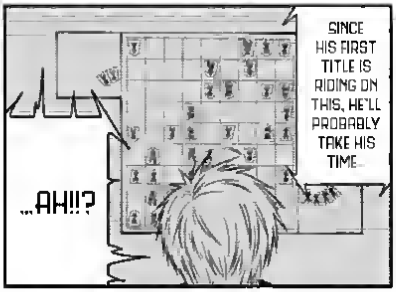

EH!? ISN'T IT COOL!?
IF IT WASN'T IMPORTANT, HE WOULDN'T CARRY AROUND SOMETHING SO LAME
I WONDER IF THAT FAN IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT

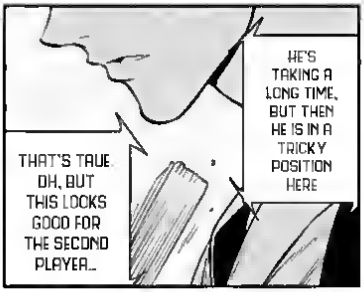

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ABOUT MY PRIZED POSSES-SION!!?
...NO, I WAS JUST THINKING YOUR FAN IS UNSIGHTLY

IT'S THE SEVENTH GAME OF THE SEVENTH MATCH OF THE SHOUDU TITLE TOURNAMENT...

THIS FAN WAS SIGNED BY A PRO I ADMIRE
...YOU KNOW

AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 19, HE'S BEEN THE CHALLENGER IN SEVEN BIG TITLE MATCHES, AND NOW HE'S DRIVEN THE SHOUDU TO A MAKE-OR-BREAK GAME
THE FIRST PLAYER IS UTAGAWA YUKINOJOU 5-DAN


SINCE HIS FIRST TITLE IS RIDING ON THIS, HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE HIS TIME...
...AH!!?

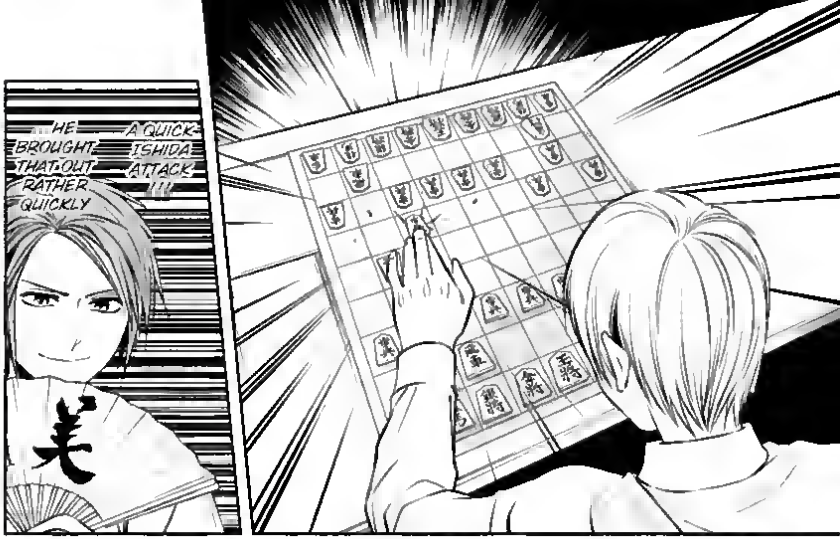

HE'S TAKING A LONG TIME, BUT THEN HE IS IN A TRICKY POSITION HERE
THAT'S TRUE. OH, BUT THIS LOOKS GOOD FOR THE SECOND PLAYER...

...IF I DID ANYTHING ELSE
IT WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN A LAME, USELESS STRUGGLE

UTAGAWA 5-DAN HAS RESIGNED !!!
ISN'T THIS TOO SOON!? SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE HELD OUT AT LEAST A LITTLE...?

SO COOL ...!!!
I WONDER HOW FAR AHEAD INTO THE GAME THEY CAN READ...
WELL... I GUESS THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY THE PEOPLE INVOLVED CAN SEE...
IT LOOKED LIKE THE SHOUOU GAVE A SMALL NOD OF AGREEMENT, TOO
...JUST PLAYING ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH
YOU REALLY DO LIKE SHOGI... ...THAT'S SO EXPENSIVE !!!
A FAN!? YOU WANT A FAN FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY!?
AND THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET
LET'S STICK TO OUR AESTHETICS

LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME!!
WE'RE OUTCLASSED, BUT IF JUST ONE OF US CAN WIN...
SAGARA-KUN WILL DEFINITELY WIN FOR US ...!!!


A QUICK ISHIDA ATTACK!!!
HE BROUGHT THAT OUT RATHER QUICKLY

HE HAS A BAD HABIT OF RESIGNING IF HE ENDS UP AT A DISADVANTAGE
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S HIS POLICY, OR IF HE'S WEAK MENTALLY
BUT I'M GOING TO STRIKE AT THAT

I'LL TAKE THE OPENING PHASE BY A WIDE MARGIN
AND MAKE HIM LOSE THE WILL TO FIGHT!!!

パチッ
パチッ
パチッ
I HEARD HE WAS A FIRST YEAR AS WELL AS A BEGINNER. BUT HE DID HIS RESEARCH
IN ORDER TO BEAT MISAKI-SAN, THAT IS THE STRATEGY YOU NEED...
.....NGH
CRAP!!!
ONE-BY-ONE, HE'S BEEN THOROUGHLY SHUTTING ME DOWN
IT'S LIKE NOTHING SHAKES HIM UP ...!!

..IF I WERE WEAK HERE, WOULDN'T IT BE UNCOOL?
I CAN'T TAKE THE LEAD .....!!!
MISAKI, YOU IDIOT!
YOU RESIGNED TOO EARLY! HOLD OUT MORE!
I NEED STRENGTH ...
TO CARRY OUT MY AESTHETICS

ISN'T BEING STUBBORN YOUR SPECIALTY? DON'T GIVE UP!
YOU MIGHT'VE STILL HAD A CHANCE! YOU PROBABLY JUST DIDN'T NOTICE IT
I DON'T WANNA !!!
I WON'T PLAY AGAINST MY AESTHETICS!
ANY MORE THAN THIS WOULD BE STRUGGLING IN VAIN
どん
わあああ
I CAN BE A CAPTAIN AT LEAST!
TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY AS THE CAPTAIN
YOU WORRY ME! NEXT YEAR YOU'LL BE THE ONLY THIRD YEAR, YOU KNOW?
じゅ…
I'M CLEARLY AT A DISADVANTAGE …
TSUKASA-KUN'S ONLY A FIRST YEAR, BUT HE'S WON… I HAVE TO WIN…
CRAP …!!!

I DON'T LIKE THIS ...!!!
I DON'T WANT TO SHOW THAT KIND OF UNSIGHTLY BEHAVIOR NO MATTER WHAT...!!!
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANY MORE THAN THIS!!!
...IT'S MY LOSS
I'M SORRY, TSUKASA ...IT WAS BEYOND MY ABILITY
GET MAD !!!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CRITICIZE ME TODAY, I WON'T COM-
MISAKI-SAN
COULD YOU REALLY
NOT WIN THAT GAME?
...TSUKASA-KUN... YOU'RE CRYI-
!?
.....I'M HEADING BACK NOW

HAD HELD OUT
IF I...
WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WIN...?
ON MY AESTHETICS
...
IF I'D YIELD
BUT
I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS, EITHER
BECAUSE OF THIS!!!
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY SHOGI FOR ALL THIS TIME
CAN'T?!?

I'M
THE CAPTAIN !!!
I WON'T YIELD ON MY AESTHETICS NO MATTER WHAT
BUT IN ORDER TO STICK TO THEM
I NEED STRENGTH
MISAKI-SAN QUICKLY RESIGNS IF HE WINDS UP AT A DISADVANTAGE
THAT MUCH CERTAINLY HASN'T CHANGED
IN EXCHANGE
IN THE YEAR SINCE THEN

EVEN ONCE
HE HASN'T BEEN AT A DISADVANTAGE

HE RESEARCHED A STYLE SPECIALIZING IN YOUSEKI FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE MIDDLE PHASE
AND DEVELOPED A STRONG DEFENSIVE PLAYSTYLE IN WHICH HE CAREFULLY MAINTAINS THE ADVANTAGE WITHOUT EXERTING HIMSELF IN ANY WAY.
.....
HE DEFINITELY WON'T GIVE UP THE LEAD
ギュッ..
BUT YOU KNOW
THINKING SOMETHING LIKE "I CAN'T WIN"

SHINOBU'S DEFINITELY GONNA WIN

HE'LL BE WAITING FOR ME
AT THE SEMIFINALS

ISN'T ALLOWED !!!

"YOUR OPPONENT"

IS ME!!!

I'M GOING TO STAND IN FRONT OF SHINOBU
AND MAKE HIM
LOOK STRAIGHT AT ME!!!

THAT'S A GOOD MOVE
I'M DEFINITELY ...
I'M DEFINITELY ...!!!
GOING TO WIN!!!
NOT GOING TO LOSE!!!
MONONOFU
...GAME 18 /END

TAREFU with JAIMING BO

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THANKS FOR READING!!!

Shougi or Shogi?

All these chapters in, and we finally managed to get a shogi consultant! He used to play competitively and traveled to international tournaments and met pro players. He's played shogi for 5 years and has helped with official translations for shogi books. We're very lucky to have him aboard!

The first thing he told us is that the official spelling used by the Japan Shogi Association is "shogi," and so it would be best to use that spelling. Where English transcribes Japanese words with shortened vowels, I've always tended towards writing them out in full, so when I saw shogi was written 将棋 (しょうぎ) (sho-u-gi), I opted to keep the "u". However, if the official Japanese association spells it "shogi," then it'd obviously be best to go with that spelling. So from here on out, it's going to be "shogi"!

-Linz